



December 2006  
DOH PUB. #331-356

## Fact Sheet

### Water Use Efficiency Rule

# Overview of Changes Made to the Final Rule Language

## Background

As a result of the public hearings and formal public comment period this past summer, the Department of Health (DOH) received over 185 pages of comments on the proposed draft water use efficiency rule. Based on the comments received, DOH has finalized the rule language. Below is a summary of key changes and clarifications to the final rule.

**Water Use Efficiency Rule**  
**Effective Date**  
**January 22, 2007**

## Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290-010 – Definitions

- Deleted the term “exported water” from the rule because it is no longer necessary. Water passing through a distribution system and delivered to another entity is considered an authorized consumption.
- Improved the clarity and readability of the following definitions: authorized consumption, cost-effective, elected governing body, marginal cost, water demand efficiency, and water supply efficiency.

## WAC 246-290-100 and WAC 246-290-105 – Water System Plan and Small Water System Management Program

- For those water systems required to submit water system plans, DOH clarified that existing studies and available information can be used to describe water supply characteristics. By using existing information and studies, the cost to municipal water systems is minimized.
- Deleted the terms watershed plans and water resource management plans in three places. These terms are referenced in the Municipal Water Law and the terms will be further clarified in a future update to WAC 246-290 (anticipated to begin in spring 2007).

## WAC 246-290-496 – Metering Requirements

- Full metering must be complete within 10 years from the rule effective date.
- The volume of water may be measured through a single meter for the following clustered entities: campgrounds, RV parks, designated mobile home parks, a building with multiple units, and complexes with multiple buildings served as a single connection.



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## **WAC 246-290-810 – Water Use Efficiency Program**

- All planning document submittals must include the new rule elements one year after the rule effective date.
- For systems serving fewer than 500 connections, the number of measures required to be implemented or evaluated was decreased from three to one.

## **WAC 246-290-820 – Distribution System Leakage Standard**

- Exported water was deleted from the distribution system leakage formula. DOH clarified that only water sold to another public water system prior to entering the distribution system must be subtracted from the total water produced/purchased.
- Determining leakage on a regional level was deleted. DOH clarified that exported water is considered an authorized consumption.
- The professional engineer requirement was deleted from the alternative methodology section to calculate distribution system leakage.
- Municipal water suppliers experiencing 20 to 29 percent leakage must develop and implement a Water Loss Control Action Plan within 12 months.

## **WAC 246-290-830 – Water Use Efficiency Goal Setting**

- Goal setting must occur within one year from rule effective date for systems with 1,000 or more connections.
- Goal setting must occur within two years for systems with fewer than 1,000 connections.

## **For More Information**

If you have any questions about the water use efficiency rule, please contact:

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Additional information can be found on the Web at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal\\_water/water\\_use\\_efficiency\\_rule.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal_water/water_use_efficiency_rule.htm)



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